



State of Connecticut

SENATE

STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

SENATOR MICHAEL A. McLACHLAN
TWENTY-FOURTH SENATE DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
SUITE 3400
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591
Capitol: (800) 842-1421
E-mail: Michael.McLachlan@cga.ct.gov
Website: www.SenatorMcLachlan.com

DEPUTY MINORITY LEADER

RANKING MEMBER
GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION &
ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

MEMBER
FINANCE, REVENUE, & BONDING COMMITTEE
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

February 19, 2013

Senator Leone, Representative Hennessy, and distinguished members of the Select Committee on Veteran's Affairs,

I am State Senator Michael McLachlan and I am here today to speak in support of Senate Bill 185, *An Act Establishing a Preference in the Award of State Contracts for Veteran-Owned Businesses*.

In the past the State has awarded preferences for State Contracts to businesses that are owned by minority groups in order to assure that diverse types of businesses are thriving in Connecticut. Businesses owned by veterans should have that same distinction. Veterans are Americans who have fought hard to protect the many freedoms that we are lucky to hold. When they return from service and decide to begin businesses, they deserve to be able to compete with larger businesses for essential State contracts.

It is imperative that we make business competitive in Connecticut. This legislation is an opportunity to extend that competitiveness, as well as thank our veterans once again for their service. This legislation will create new opportunities for Connecticut businesses and help create the business-friendly environment we, as a legislature, should be fostering.

Thank you for your consideration of this legislation. I urge the committee to support its passage.